



United States Department of Agriculture

## Missouri Farm Service Agency (FSA)

### State to Receive \$1.6 Million in Emergency Conservation Program Funding

July 3, 2006 — Missouri producers will receive \$1.6 million in from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters, according to the head of the Farm Service Agency in Missouri.

State Executive Director Tim Kelley announced today that USDA is providing \$1,676,300 in Emergency Conservation Program funds to assist Missouri farmers in rehabilitating and restoring conservation practices on their lands.

"The funds are earmarked by USDA," Kelley said. "Producers will receive \$1,305,400 to help recover from this spring's tornados and \$370,900 offset the effects of the drought."

The funds will be split among affected counties based upon the number of requests Farm Service Agency county offices receive from eligible producers.

Kelley said producers should check with their local FSA office about eligibility requirements and sign-up periods, which are set by the local FSA county committee.

For a producer's land to be eligible, the disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land, materially affect its productive capacity, represent damage that is unusual in character and be so costly to rehabilitate that federal assistance is required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

The emergency funding gives producers an additional resource to remove debris from farmland, restore fences and conservation structures and grade and shape farmland damaged by natural disaster. Program funds can also be used to provide water for livestock in drought situations.